

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Topic For the Week Beginning Feb. 6. Comment by Rev. S. H. Doyle. Topic.—Christ's warnings.—Matt. vii, 21-27. (A monthly meeting suggested.)

Two things are necessary to our best encouragement and development in Christian character. We must be instructed in the Christian life and encouraged by the blessedness and happiness of fidelity to God, and, furthermore, we must be stimulated by being faithfully warned against the evil consequences sure to follow if we do not faithfully serve the Lord.

Christ was faithful in warning His people as well as holding out inducements in the way of the precious promises of God. It is a noticeable fact that the warnings of Christ and of God's word are not emphasized today as they used to be and as they undoubtedly should be. If Christ thought it important and necessary to use warnings in presenting the truth of God, His disciples should not lightly disregard it, for "the servant is not greater than his lord."

1. Christ warns us against hypocrisy. "Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven." To those who falsely professed His name, He said He would say on the day of judgment: "I never knew you. Depart from Me." The utter worthlessness and weakness of hypocrisy in religion are apparent to all. Christ knows that we are not sincere. We cannot deceive Him, nor can we deceive God. Nor do we usually deceive men. Sooner or later they will know if we are true or false, and instead of our profession benefiting us, it will injure us. Christ's warning against hypocrisy should stimulate us to sincerity. If Christianity is worth imitating, it is worth possessing. The real thing is always of greater and surer value than the counterfeit.

2. Christ warns us against being hearers of His word only. It is not the one, He says, that heareth the word of God, but the one that doeth it that shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Christ likened the one who heard, but did not do, to a man who built a house upon the sand, which was speedily and easily destroyed in the midst of the storm that came upon it. But him that both heard and did His sayings He likened to a man who built his house upon a rock, which withstood all the storms that came upon it. He clearly points out the consequences resulting from not doing His will, but He leaves it for us to decide what we will do. Let us imitate the wise man who built his house upon the rock. Let us both hear and do, thus obeying the injunction of James to be doers and not hearers only.

Bible Readings.—II Chron. xix, 10; Ps. xix, 9-11; Isa. iii, 11; Ezek. iii, 17-19; Math. xxvii, 6, 7; xxviii, 29-33; xxv, 1-13, 31-46; Luke vi, 22-26; xi, 42-44; xvii, 1-4; John iii, 18-20; Col. 1, 23, 29; I Thess. v, 14; Heb. xi, 7; Jas. 1, 22-27.

The World For Christ.

If you want to conquer the world for Christ, learn something about the method of campaigns. Study missions more diligently and intelligently than you would study mathematics. Give your hours to it. Count your best as an unworthy gift to lay on the missionary altar. Share your knowledge among Endeavorers and other church members, circulate missionary literature, brighten up the missionary services of your society and congregation. Give as you would give into the pierced hand of Jesus himself. Go, if He will let you go. By any means, by all means, preach the gospel.—Golden Rule.

There's Something In This.

An Australian society has circulated a card with a list of questions covering almost everything that young Christians could attempt. In order to ascertain just what work is most needed to the individual member, each is requested to put a cross against the work that he would like to undertake. The first card is followed by another, on which the receiver is requested to enter a record of work done. Both lookout and nominating committees would find such a list helpful.—Exchange.

Leakage Stopped by Endeavorers.

A prominent member of the United Methodist Free-church of England, Rev. E. Abbott of Birmingham, declared in a recent address that his denomination had lost 80,000 members in ten years by leakages, a member equal to the whole present membership of the denomination, but he said that Christian Endeavor was stopping the leakage.

Work For All.

There is no work for each laborer in the great harvest field, but the Lord of the harvest must send forth where and how He pleases. May we be much in the counsel of the Lord that we may be instructed successfully to work for Him.—Mrs. Ponnegather.

The Hardest Task.

I do believe the common man's task is the hardest. The hero has the hero's epizootic that lifts him to his labor. All great duties are easier than the little ones, though they cost far more blood and agony.—Phillips Brooks.

Howe-To Come.

I dreamed I had a pile of ground. Once when I chanced asleep to drop. And that a green hedge fenced it round. Cloudy with roses at the top.

What Other Kind?

"What a nasty smell burned powder has!" said Johnny. "Powder?" exclaimed his elder sister, Miss Maud, looking up. "Why, it hasn't any sm—oh, you mean gunpowder!"

A SUNBEAM BROKE A BANK.

The Faro Dealer Thought Its End Was a White Check. "That piece in your paper 'bout the guy that cleaned up the faro banks out in Seattle," mused Bettam High, the Chicago gambler, as he told the waiter to "bring on three for a half," "ain't it in it with my personal experience. This was out in Cripple Creek when the boom was way up an a good play agin a right bank, see, was with more to the banker than a split in the best claim you could git if they broke even. Do you know Eatent Up Jake? That wasn't his name of course, but the gang give him the handle 'cause he could chew so fast, see? Well, Eatent Up got hold of a piece of money in Chicago—he win out a roll off'n a short money, see, an he goes off to Cripple Creek an starts to dealin. De lay out was in a little frame, pine board joint 'bout a big's a dry goods box. Jake gets a good play, you know—took a minute to settle after every turn, see? But I didn't tell you 'bout the knothole. You see, there's a knothole in a board right back of the dealer. Jake, he's in the lookout chair, see? Jake don't have no check there, see, so nobody minds the daylight, only it makes the dealer a little sleepy, an Jake, he's kinda dopy.

"Well, there's a tin horn from over in another joint—a plunger in the stud game, see? He blows in an buys two red checks, waits for cases, fergets the copper one play an gets whipsaved, see—loses both bets. Then he buys half a stack of whites an keeps the seat, playing mostly cases. He keeps his checks in his hands, an Jake don't keep cases on him. Well, he goes broke, but Jake doesn't know it.

"The jack's a case, see, an the sunlight's coming through the knothole over the dealer's shoulder, hits the jack right in the center, an it looks like a white check. The jack wins. Dealer pays a white check on the jack. Tin horn pushes the sleeper over between the queen an the king, an it wins again, see? An, on the level, the guy win and win, an nothin can stop him. Five deals afterward he has the check rack out, an Jake says: "I can't deal fer you no more. Mo roll is gone."

"Next day I staked Jake in the poker game an tell him how it happened, an he says: "Well, watyotink of that? Wouldn't that skin you? I've heard of guys winning out de bank roll off'n eat money, but I never heard of winning out on a shadder."—Elmira Telegram.

PERCENTAGE OF POOR EYES.

Only One Person In Fifteen Has Both Eyes In Good Condition. Only one person in 15 has both eyes in good condition, and in 7 cases out of 10 one eye, generally the right, is stronger than the other. It is found that just as people are right or left handed so they are right or left sighted, and while apparently looking with both eyes they often really use only one. Out of 20 persons whose eyes were tested by a German doctor two only were found to be left sighted.

The reason of the greater strength generally possessed by the right eye is not altogether understood, but probably the natural tendency to the greater use of the right side of the body has something to do with it. In using weapons, for instance, mankind has been taught to assume for ages attitudes in which the right hand and side have most exercise, and this discipline has undoubtedly had its effect on the eye.

Old sea captains after long use of the telescope find their right eyes much stronger than the left—the direct effect of exercise. This law is confirmed by the experience of aurists. If a person who has ears of equal hearing power has cause to use one ear more than the other for a long period, the ear brought into requisition is found to be strengthened and the ear not used loses its hearing in a corresponding degree.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

He Wanted a Plumber.

"Man you sent to fix that range of our'n a poet?" asked a rural looking customer of the proprietor of a down town plumbing establishment.

"I—I—really, I don't know," responded the startled proprietor, with a look of sober inquiry.

"Tain't as I got anything particular agin poets," explained the customer suavely as he took a chair and cleared his throat, "but I've hearn tell of folks misain their vocations—they as ought to be hoisin petaters and huskin corn gittin into pulpits an lawyers' offices, for instance. Course I ain't sayin as I really see any of your young man's poetry. I jest sort of sp'icioned a leetle that he mought be one of them kind, 'cause that there range won't draw or bake since he tinkered with it. Poets may be all right enough in their place, and I reckon there's nicks in the world for every sort, but when a cookin range is out of gear one wants a plumber."—New York Sun.

A Little Encouragement.

J. L. Toole was once entertained by a party of Edinburgh gentlemen at dinner. After the cloth was removed a little sociability was indulged in, and Mr. Toole was asked to give a recitation. This the veteran comedian sternly declined to do. A worthy bailie, whose knowledge of things theatrical was somewhat primitive, approached Toole, patted him on the back and said in a fatherly way: "Come awa', my man; dinna be bashfu'. We're no ill to please."—Household Words.

At the Restaurant.

Guest—Why don't you smash those dishes? Waitress—They fine us for smashing dishes here. Guest—Well, if I run the place, I'd fine you for not smashing them.—Detroit Free Press.

SWEET JASMINE.

How This Fragrant Flower Became the Symbol of Marriage. Long before orange blossoms became associated with weddings the fragrant jasmine was commonly used for the decoration of a bride. A very pretty legend of ancient Tuscany tells how this little blossom became the symbol of love. A traveler, returning from the warm countries of Asia, brought home with him a rare tropical plant—the jasmine—which was unknown in Tuscany. He gave a small slip to a certain duke, who set it among his most treasured plants, where it rooted and thrived under the care of the gardener and soon grew to be a good sized plant. The duke was so proud of his rare possession that he gave strict orders to his gardener to guard the plant carefully and on no account to give even a slip—not a flower—to any person.

The gardener was a good young man, and he would have been faithful to his charge had he not happened to fall in love with the sweetest peasant maid in all Tuscany. The maid was poor and her lover was not much richer, so they were unable to marry. On the birthday of the peasant the gardener, having nothing else to give the maid of his choice, presented her with a bouquet of flowers, and among the other clippings in the bunch there was one from the duke's cherished jasmine bush. Nothing could be too good for the gardener's maiden, so in this one instance he relaxed his care of the shrub. The girl, admiring the fresh buds of the sprig, wished to preserve it, and so placed it in the ground, where it rooted and remained fresh and green all winter, thus symbolizing her love for the gardener, and in the following spring it grew and was covered with blossoms. The little bush flourished and the flowers multiplied so under the maiden's care that she was able to sell many of the sprigs for a considerable sum, thus spreading the unknown flower abroad; and in a short time, with a spray of the precious love token on her breast she was wedded to the happy gardener.

To this day the Tuscan girls preserve the remembrance of the gardener's gift to his sweetheart by wearing a nosegay of sweet jasmine on their wedding day, and they have a proverb which says a young girl wearing such a sprig is rich enough to make the fortune of a poor husband.—Philadelphia Press.

Cardinal Mezzofanti's Memory.

Cardinal Mezzofanti had a memory little short of miraculous. Dr. Russell, his biographer, says that the cardinal spoke with the greatest ease 30 languages; that he spoke fairly well 9; that he used occasionally, but not with any fluency, 11 more; that he spoke imperfectly 8, and that he could read 11 more. Taking in addition the number of dialects he used, some so diverse from the mother tongue as to constitute a different language, Dr. Russell says that the cardinal was master of no less than 111 different languages and dialects.

His German was so excellent that he was taken for a native of Germany, while his French and English were equally pure. Dr. Tholuck heard him converse in German, Arabic, Spanish, Flemish, English, Latin, Greek, Swedish and Portuguese, at one of the pope's receptions, and afterward Mezzofanti gave him a poem in Persian and left him to take a lesson in Cornish. He knew several of the American Indian languages and nearly all the dialects of India.

In spite of all these attainments, however, he was a very dull man, and himself said that he had 20 words for one idea. He was remarkable only for the number of languages he knew, but was not distinguished as a grammarian, a lexicographer, a philosopher, a philologist or ethnologist, and added nothing to any department of the study of language.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

An Imperfect Gold Coin.

Superintendent Beach of the street cleaning department some time since found a \$5 gold coin on a curbstone, and it proved to be a curiosity, worth as much as two ordinary \$5 pieces, on account of its having been "miss struck"—that is, it had not been placed squarely in the die, and the milling on one side was some distance from the edge, while on the other side there was none. On mentioning the fact to an employee in the San Francisco mint he was told that the coin was a counterfeit, and that it was practically impossible that a coin so disfigured could have been issued from any government mint. When the coin was produced, the mint employee, after putting it to all sorts of tests, had to admit that it was a genuine coin, struck at the Philadelphia mint, where every coin passes through the hands of four persons who examine it for defects, and he said he would not have believed it possible for such a coin to escape them had he not seen it.—Portland Oregonian.

Declining Our Pronouns.

In a collection of the possessions of the late Robert Louis Stevenson there is a letter showing the difficulties which even such a master of English as he experienced in writing our language. "When I invent a language," he writes, "there shall be a direct and indirect pronoun differently declined, and then writing will be some fun." This idea he illustrates as follows: Direct—He, him, his. Indirect—Tu, tum, tus. He adds in exemplification, "He seized tum by tus throat, but tu at the same moment caught him by his hair." A fellow would write hurriedly on such an inflection like that.—Boston Herald.

Freeman's Sensitiveness.

One incident of Freeman's early life preserved by Mr. Stephens is thoroughly characteristic. Before he was of age he was in love, and as soon as he reached 21 he offered marriage and was accepted. Some opposition from Freeman's own folks seemed the only hindrance to a happy union. But another was created by the sensitiveness of Freeman's own conscience. "He had expectations of a sufficient income, but it was partly derived from coal mines, and the shocking disclosures recently made respecting the treatment of colliers made him doubt whether he could conscientiously draw an income from that branch of industry until the system was reformed." There we see the same temper at work which in later days made Freeman throw up a pleasant and lucrative connection with The Saturday Review because he disapproved of its foreign politics. His standard of right and wrong might sometimes be perverse, his judgments hastily formed, but seldom has any man lived to whom the call of duty, once made clear, was more absolutely imperative, in defiance of any plea of convenience or of usage. His action was always in purpose the embodiment of George Eliot's fine lines:

Nay, falter not. 'Tis an assured good To seek the noblest; 'tis your only good Now you have seen it, for that higher vision Poisons all manner choice for evermore.

People Who Eat Hair.

It is difficult to imagine people eating hair, but there are many, especially girls and young women, who do so, as experience proves. Doctors conducting post mortem examinations have been surprised to find a large quantity of hair in the stomach of the deceased person.

Not long ago an English medical man found as much as four pounds of hair in the stomach of a woman about 30 years old, and similar cases have been officially reported from various parts of the world.

Dr. Swain lately performed an operation for tumor, when, to his astonishment, the cause of complaint was a mass of hair weighing between four and five pounds.

In this case the patient confessed that she had contracted a habit of biting off the ends of her hair, just as some bite their finger nails.—Pearson's Weekly.

Three Strangers and Remarkable Men.

As Dumas, the grandfather, prided himself more upon his wonderful strength and skill in athletics than his generalship; as Dumas, the second, prided himself more upon his knowledge of cookery than the authorship of "The Three Musketeers," so Dumas, the third, prided himself more upon his knowledge of art than upon the writing of "La Dame aux Camelias." They were three strange and remarkable men.—Rochester Post-Express.

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W. B. ALEXANDER.

After the Trial.

Rankin—in my opinion the judge's charge to the jury was outrageous. Fylo—it wasn't half as bad as the bailiff's. He charged them \$1 a meal.—Chicago Tribune.

Art thou in misery, brother?

Then I pray be comforted. Thy grief shall pass away. Art thou elated? Ah, be not too gay. Temper thy joy. This, too, shall pass away.—Paul H. Hayne.

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